

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 MC-02 EB-11 SS-14

NSC-10 RSR-01 /103 W

----- 031618

R 271219 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5397

INFO SECDEF

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

JUSMG/MAAG MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1578

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SP, US

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE ON SHIP LOANS

REF: MADRID 1433

1. NAVY MINISTER, ADMIRAL BATURONE, AND NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF, ADMIRAL PITA DA VEIGA, HAVE REPLIED TO MY LETTERS OF MARCH 13 REGARDING EDITORIAL ON SHIP LOANS THAT APPEARED IN AFTERNOON DAILY INFORMACIONES ON MARCH 5 (REFTEL.

2. TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF NAVY MINISTER'S LETTER OF MARCH 15 FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: MY DEAR AMBASSADOR AND FRIEND, I REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF THE 13 TH IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN COMMENTS PUBLISHED IN THE SPANISH PRESS IN REGARD TO THE SPANISH- AMERICAN NAVAL COOPERATION STEMMING FROM THE MATTER OF THE DESTROYERS.

FIRST, I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT SUCH COMMENTS DO
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NOT EXPRESS IN ANY WAY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS, NOR THAT OF THE SPANISH NAVY. MY POSITION, FROM THE BEGINNING, HAS BEEN THAT OF NOT GIVING TO THE PRESS ANY OFFICIAL, NOR OFFICIAL, INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER AND I HAVE MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO AVOID DISSEMINATION OF THE NEWS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT, IN A SMALL CITY SUCH AS EL FERROL DEL CAUDILLO, TO HIDE FROM THE NATURAL CURIOSITY OF THE REPORTERS OF THE NEWS AGENCIES, NOT ONLY THE ACCEPTANCE BUT THE SUBSEQUENT CANCELLATION OF THE LOAN OF THREE DESTROYERS; THE NEWS POSSIBLY BECAME KNOWN TO THE PR PRESS LPM SPENT TODAY'S SESSION TALKING IN GENERAL TERMS, ALWAYS DISAGREEING WITH RLG, BUT NEVER PINPOINTING SPECIFIC LPM OBJECTIONS. NOUPHAT SAID BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED BELIEF PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON FORMING JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL, BUT PROGRESS ON FORMING COALITION GOVERNMENT MUST AWAIT RESUMPTION OF TALKS BETWEEN PHOUMI VONG-VICHIT AND PHENG PHONGSAVAN.

4. COMMENT: LPM DEL CHIEF PHOUN SIPRASEUTH IS NOW EXPECTED TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE TOMORROW, MARCH 28, WITH NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM LPM CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO FBIS INTERCEPTS OF RADIO PATHET LAO AND INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM ICC/ LAOS CANDEL. LPM DELEGATION MAY SPEND TOMORROW WORKING ON ITS DRAFT PROTOCOLS FOR SUBMISSION IN JOINT SRESEARCH COMMISSION FORUM THURSDAY, MARCH 29. LPM RESURRECTION OF BOMBING HALT DEMAND IS CURIOUS, SINCE, FOR SOME WEEKS, LPM DELEGATES HERE HAVE PRIVATELY BEEN EXPRESSING QUIET GRATIFICATION THAT USG HAS COMPLIED WITH CEASEFIRE BY REFRAINING FROM BOMBING IN LAOS. APPARENTLY NO MENTION WAS MADE AT MEETING BY LPM OR RLG SIDE OF RELEASE OF NINE U. S. PRISONERS CAPTURED IN LAOS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28 IN HANOI, ALTHOUGH SOTH PHETRASY WENT DIRECTLY TO TODAY'S SESSION OF TALKS FROM MEETING WITH DCM DEAN ON THIS SUBJECT. (REFTEL).
GODLEY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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